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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/506,875 | 09/03/2004 | Rolf Beume | 26252 | 6681 |
| 20529 7590 12/24/2009 | | | | |
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| EXAMINER | | | | |
| BLAKELY III, NELSON CLARENCE | | | | |
| ART UNIT | | PAPER NUMBER | | |
| 1614 | | | | |
| MAIL DATE | | DELIVERY MODE | | |
| 12/24/2009 | | PAPER | | |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/506,875

Applicant(s)

BEUME ET AL.

Examiner

NELSON C. BLAKELY III

Art Unit

1614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-47 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-47 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/DP)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

Application Status

Claims 1-47 of the instant application are pending.

Election/Restrictions

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 1-15, 17-34 and 39-45, drawn to a pharmaceutical composition, a pharmaceutical product, and a kit, comprising a first active ingredient, which is selected from a PDE4 inhibitor, a PDE3/4 inhibitor and their pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives, and a second active ingredient, which is selected from a histamine receptor antagonist and its pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives.

Group II, claim(s) 15, 16, 27 and 43, drawn to a process for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition which comprises mixing the first active ingredient with the second active ingredient.

Group III, claim(s) 15, 27, 35-35, 43, 46 and 47, drawn to a method for the treatment of a respiratory disease comprising administering to a patient in need thereof (a) an effective amount of a PDDE4 inhibitor, a PDE3/4 inhibitor or a pharmaceutically

acceptable derivative thereof and (b) an effective amount of a histamine receptor antagonist or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

Instant claim(s) 15, 27 and 43 are non-statutory, in that, the claimed invention, as set forth, is not encompassed within one of the statutory classes presented under 35 U.S.C. 101, such as a product/composition, process of use, or process of making. Therefore, the Examiner has considered these possible interpretations of instant claim(s) 15, 27 and 43, thereby placing instant claim(s) 15, 27 and 43 in all three groups above.

The inventions listed as Groups I-III do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

An international application should relate to only one invention, or if there is more than one invention, the inclusion of those inventions in one international application is only permitted if all inventions are so linked as to form a single general inventive concept (PCT Rule 13.1). With respect to a group of inventions claimed in an international application, unity of invention exists only when there is a technical relationship among the claimed inventions involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features.

The expression "special technical features" is defined in PCT Rule 13.2 as meaning those technical features that define a contribution which each of the inventions, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art. The determination is made on the contents of the claims as interpreted in light of the description and drawings (if any). Whether or not any particular technical feature makes a "contribution" over the

prior art, and therefore constitutes a "special technical feature", should be considered with respect to novelty and inventive step.

The common technical feature in all groups is a pharmaceutical composition (or product or kit) comprising a first active ingredient, which is selected from a PDE4 inhibitor, a PDE3/4 inhibitor and their pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives, and a second active ingredient, which is selected from a histamine receptor antagonist and its pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives. This composition cannot be a special technical feature under PCT Rule 13.2 because the composition is shown in the prior art.

Singh *et al.* (EP1005865A1; cited by Applicant) disclose, in the Abstract, a novel composition of nimesulide and salts thereof and cetirizine, wherein the composition in the cure of allergic disorders such as bronchitis and asthma (known respiratory conditions). Further, in paragraph [0023], page 4, Singh *et al.* disclose nimesulide as a potent stabilizer of mast cells and basophils preventing the release of histamine, e.g., histamine receptor antagonist, and as a potent inhibitor of phosphodiesterase type IV (PDE4) in human polymorphonuclear leukocytes. Thus, there is no "special technical feature", which renders this restriction requirement proper.

This application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention. These species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

The species are as follows: a single disclosed first active ingredient, a second single disclosed active ingredient and a respiratory disease.

With regard to Groups I-III, Applicant is required to elect a single disclosed first active ingredient and a single disclosed second active ingredient. In order for the election to be considered fully responsive to this requirement, the election **must include:**

- a) the name and structure of one species of the instantly claimed compound,
 - b) the location of the species (a) within the claims or (b) within the specification,
- and
- c) the claims that read on the elected species.

Further, with regard to Groups I-III, Applicant is required to elect a disclosed respiratory disease.

Applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single species to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The reply must also identify the claims readable on the elected species, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered non-responsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

The claims are deemed to correspond to the species listed above in the following manner:

- a) a single disclosed first active ingredient – Instant claims 1-47,

- b) a single disclosed second active ingredient – Instant claims 1-47, and
- c) a single disclosed respiratory disease – Instant claims 15, 27, 25-38, 43, 46 and 47.

The following claim(s) are generic: 1-47.

The species listed above do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, the species lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

An international application should relate to only one invention or, if there is more than one invention, the inclusion of those inventions in one international application is only permitted if all inventions are so linked as to form a single general inventive concept (PCT Rule 13.1). With respect to the species, unity of invention exists only when there is a technical relationship among the claimed inventions involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features. The expression "special technical features" shall mean those technical features that define a contribution which each of the claimed inventions, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art.

The claims herein lack unity of invention under PCT Rule 13.1 and 13.2 because the instant invention does not set forth a technical relationship among the claimed inventions. For instance, the instant invention lacks unity in that the PDE4 inhibitor, PDE3/4 inhibitor, and their pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives, set forth in instant claim 7 (e.g. cetirizine; terfenadine), do not share a technical relationship, such as a common core structure or biological, physical, or chemical properties. Therefore, with compositions comprising components of varying structural moieties, such as those

claimed in instant claim 7, there is not a technical relationship among the claimed inventions.

Applicant is advised that to be complete, the reply to this requirement must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement may be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To preserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

The Examiner has required restriction between product and process claims. Where Applicant elects claims directed to the product, and the product claims are subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise require all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be considered for rejoinder. All claims directed to a nonelected process invention must require all the limitations of an allowable product claim for that process invention to be rejoined.

In the event of rejoinder, the requirement for restriction between the product claims and the rejoined process claims will be withdrawn, and the rejoined process claims will be fully examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104. Thus, to be allowable, the rejoined claims must meet all criteria for patentability including the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101, 102, 103 and 112. Until all claims to the elected product are found allowable, an otherwise proper restriction requirement between product claims and process claims may be maintained. Withdrawn process claims that are not commensurate in scope with an allowable product claim will not be rejoined. See MPEP § 821.04(b). Additionally, in order to retain the right to rejoinder in accordance with the above policy, Applicant is advised that the process claims should be amended during prosecution to require the limitations of the product claims. **Failure to do so may result in a loss of the right to rejoinder.** Further, note that the prohibition against double patenting rejections of 35 U.S.C. 121 does not apply where the restriction requirement is withdrawn by the examiner before the patent issues. See MPEP § 804.01.

Conclusion

Claims 1-47 are subject to a restriction/election of species requirement.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to NELSON C. BLAKELY III whose telephone number is (571) 270-3290. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Thurs, 7:00 am - 5:30 pm (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ardin H. Marschel can be reached on (571) 272-0718. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1614

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/N. C. B. III/

Examiner, Art Unit 1614

/Ardin Marschel/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1614